

**Summit County Wildfire Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2016  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Jim Curnutte, Dan Moroz, Paul Kuhn, Matt Benedict, Brett Cary, Ken Wiegand, Jim Keating, Chapin LaChance, Jim Cox, Brad Piehl, Shelby Limberis, Dan Schroder, Doug Cupp, Beth Huron, John Taylor, Susan Lee

- I. Approval of Agenda:** Jim Curnutte acted as chair and opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made around the room, and the agenda was approved with no changes.
- II. Approval of March 17, 2016 Minutes:** Jim Cox moved to approve the March 17, 2016 minutes. Ken Wiegand seconded the motion; all were in favor and the minutes were approved.
- III. Recommendation for 2016 Wildfire Grant Awards:** Doug Cupp gave an overview of available 2016 grant funding, as well as Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Implementation grant applications received (see attachment A). A subcommittee met on June 9 to review the grant requests.
  - **Town of Dillon / Summit County Resource Allocation Park (SCRAP)** – The Town of Dillon and Summit County SCRAP submitted a joint application to conduct fuels reduction on approximately 15 acres near the archery range and landfill, including 11 acres of town property and 4 acres of county property. Approximately 90% of the trees are dead, creating significant potential for ignition. 50% of the logs from the project will stay in Summit County for wood utilization projects and the contractor will take the other half. The county will contribute \$4,500; Town of Dillon will contribute \$19,050. Future Forest Service projects above the area will further complement this project.
  - **Sunrise Point** – The proposed project area is above Warrior's Mark/Warrior's Preserve in Breckenridge. The HOA received a quote of \$8,000/acre, compared to the county average of \$2,500. The property was previously treated and has good defensible space. The high cost per acre may be due to accessibility. The applicant has requested \$10,000 in grant funding for an estimated \$30,000 project. Discussion followed on whether to fund this request given the high cost and uncertainty about the scope of the project. The council agreed that wildfire staff and the fire district should work with the applicant to design a viable project for the 2017 grant period.
  - **Highlands Parcel A** – The HOA completed fuels reduction on Parcel B two years ago and now plan to treat the adjacent lot. The HOA requested \$6,000 in grant funding, with a total project cost of \$12,000 for 3.2 acres. The Highlands is a Firewise community and has completed most of the work in the neighborhood, but there are a few remaining small parcels such as this that need work. The fire district would like to see this parcel treated to add protection for the community.
  - **Marksberry** – Highlands HOA proposes to revegetate an area between the neighborhood and the highway. The scoring subcommittee agreed that this wasn't an appropriate project for HFR grant funding.

- **Town of Breckenridge Chipping Site** – 2016 will be the third year that the town has provided and maintained a reception site for its slash removal program as well as the county's chipping program, assisted by county grant funding. The town proposes a 50/50 match, with a total project cost of \$30,000 and grant request of \$15,000. This slash/chip site is beneficial to the county in that it provides a chip storage site as well as visibility for the county chipping program.
- **Ptarmigan Cistern** – The applicant has worked with Lake Dillon Fire to determine placement for 3 water storage tanks with a total capacity of 7,600 gallons. The project will benefit the entire neighborhood by providing a central water source for firefighting efforts. The applicant requests \$23,400, with a total project cost of \$26,000.
- **Theobald (Phase 2)** – This is the second phase of an ongoing project comprised of 8 sections, each approximately 3-5 acres in size. The property lies below the Peak 7 neighborhood and adjacent to the Shock Hill neighborhood, so treatment will protect many homes. The total project cost is \$6,400, with a grant request of \$3,200.
- **Ruby Ranch** – The project comprises 7 parcels totaling 9 acres and will remove all dead and down trees. The neighborhood lies adjacent to Eagles Nest Wilderness and there is potential for fire due to the huge amount of blow down in the wilderness area. The applicant requests \$18,000 in grant funds for a \$36,000 project.
- **Summit Estates** – The HOA has completed most of the fuels reduction work in the neighborhood, with this 2-acre lot being the last untreated parcel. The lot will be built on, but Doug had the applicant remove the house footprint and leave only zone 2 in the project. The HOA requests \$2,250, with a total project cost of \$4,500.
- **Pebble Creek** – As part of a multi-year project, the HOA will treat 12 acres in this Firewise community. Total project cost is \$21,032, with a grant request of \$10,516.
- **Town of Blue River** – This multi-year project has been managed and implemented by a contractor who educates homeowners and prompts them to participate in the fuels reduction program. Thirteen homeowners are participating in the program this year, for a total project cost of \$48,150 and a grant request of \$24,075.

Paul Kuhn motioned to approve the wildfire grants as presented; Jim Cox seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**IV. CWPP Map Update:** Doug Cupp worked with Sally Nowak and Suzanne Kenney from Summit County GIS over the last several months to revise the CWPP maps. Doug summarized the process and revisions.

Process:

- CWPP subcommittee met several times in the initial phase to provide direction, input and ideas.
- Staff reviewed other CWPP's as well as the industry standards.
- Staff incorporated recommendations made by the Headwaters consulting team.
- Data was collected from the USFS, BLM, Summit County GIS, Summit County Planning, Colorado State Forest Service and Summit County Emergency Management.
- Staff revised the document based on research and stakeholder input.
- GIS created a model using new information.
- More data collection.

- Revised model.
- Revise document to include new model.

Updates:

- Rebuilt the models.
- Added new fire modeling to include blow down.
- Treatments including thinning, fuel breaks and clear cuts are included in the model. These areas received a negative score which reduces the risk.
- New data added including some water sources, fuel treatments, roads and fire occurrence.

Staff will present the CWPP again at the July Wildfire Council meeting for approval and formal adoption. The suggestion was made to have the Summit Daily News write an article about the CWPP update. Staff will follow up on this suggestion when the revised CWPP is complete.

**V. 2016 Chipping Program Update:** The County has contracted with Ryan Vas Nunes (Colorado Tree Specialists). Staff had to make a tough decision because Alpine Tree Services performed so well last year, but Colorado Tree Specialists submitted the lowest bid by \$22,000. Wildfire staff have met with Ryan several times and are confident his company will carry out the contract terms. Advertising for the chipping program has started. Two seasonal technicians have been offered the position and will start the week of June 27. Timberline will haul chips to Climax Mine to be used in reclamation projects. Timberline is charging approximately \$7/cubic yard to haul and Climax will pay \$8/cubic yard up to 6,000 cubic yards, so there is potential for the program to earn \$6,000. Wood that gets chipped in the Tiger Road area (weeks 6&7 and 12&13) will be used in the Snake River Restoration project.

**VI. Education Updates:** Efforts by various entities contribute to the County's overall education and outreach program; e.g. one contractor sent out mailers about the grant program to residents of Blue River, and the Association of Realtors sent a mailer to every household in the county. Additionally, Doug Cupp and Dan Schroder have presented to the four town councils on wildfire and chipping. All of these efforts contribute to the in-kind requirement for the DNR grant funding the chipping program. County staff revised the highway signs for the chipping program to emphasize the need to have wood out on Monday morning. Dan has contracted with the movie theatre and Krystal 93 to run chipping program advertising. Doug and Dan are attending the Colorado Wood Utilization conference in Colorado Springs next week and will present outcomes and uses of the chipping program. There will be a banner in front of the County Commons advertising the chipping program.

**VII. Roundtable Discussion - Activities of Wildfire Council Members and Partners:**

- Ptarmigan Grant – The applicant asked if the county would consider waiving the grading permit fee for the cistern project. The county has a system for waiving permit fees, which the applicant will pursue.
- Fire danger is moderate right now, but is expected to rise as high temperatures and low humidity continue to dry out vegetation.
- There was a small fire near the highway construction area behind the high school just

before today's meeting. The fire was promptly extinguished by nearby crews, but serves to remind that wildfires can occur.

- USFS – The Highlands Stewardship project was awarded to West Range Forest Products in 2012. Units 1 and 2 have been completed. West Range is operating again and is taking chips to Eagle Valley Clean Energy. Road use permits expire at the end of this year, so contractors are pushing to finish. They are currently logging unit 8 and hope to complete the 450 acre project by the end of 2016. The next priority is Golden Horseshoe, followed by Ophir Mountain and Brush Creek. The Forest Service is moving forward with the Lower Snake WUI project (formerly called Keystone Stewardship). The Dillon Ranger District has a new deputy district ranger – Adam Bianchi.
- The Town of Breckenridge's slash disposal program starts on June 27<sup>th</sup> – the same day as the county chipping program.
- The county wildfire mitigation specialist has had a busy first year making CWPP revisions, contributing to the county code revisions, conducting development reviews, issuing county red cards, making recommendations for a USFS and Xcel Energy NEPA scoping project, helping manage the chipping program and working with the public.

**VIII. Next Meeting Date: July 21, 1:30 – 3:30**

**IX. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Beth Huron, Summit County Community Development

## Attachment A – 2016 Wildfire Grant Program Funding

### 2016 Wildfire Grant program

MONEY IN		
Funding	\$254,345	
DNR grant reimbursement	\$50,000	
Chips revenue vs cost trucking	\$6,000	
Total funding available	\$310,345	
Program expenditures		
Minus chipping	\$120,000	
Education	\$20,000	
Weeds	\$10,000	
Seasonal Employees	\$14,000	
Truck	\$6,000	
Total expenses	\$170,000	
GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$140,345	

MONEY LEFT OVER	
Income minus expenses	\$6,604

MONEY OUT		
GRANT REQUESTS	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUEST
Pebble creek	\$21,032	\$10,516
Marksbury reforestation x	\$10,000	\$0
Town of breckenridge	\$30,000	\$15,000
Town of blue river	\$43,650	\$21,825
Theobald	\$6,400	\$3,200
Ruby ranch	\$36,000	\$18,000
Highlands	\$12,000	\$6,000
Summit estates	\$4,500	\$2,250
Sunrise point ?	\$30,000	\$10,000
Scrap	\$9,000	\$4,500
Town of Dillon	\$39,600	\$19,050
Ptarmigan	\$26,000	\$23,400
TOTAL GRANT REQUEST	\$268,182	\$133,741

